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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/828,843	04/21/2004	James A. Perkins	56527.C1/ C-3670.0	5307
408	7590	02/12/2007	EXAMINER	
LUEDEKA, NEELY & GRAHAM, P.C. P O BOX 1871 KNOXVILLE, TN 37901			POPOVICS, ROBERT J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	02/12/2007	PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/828,843	PERKINS ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Robert J. Popovics	1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-12,14 and 16-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 21-33 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3-6,9-12,14 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

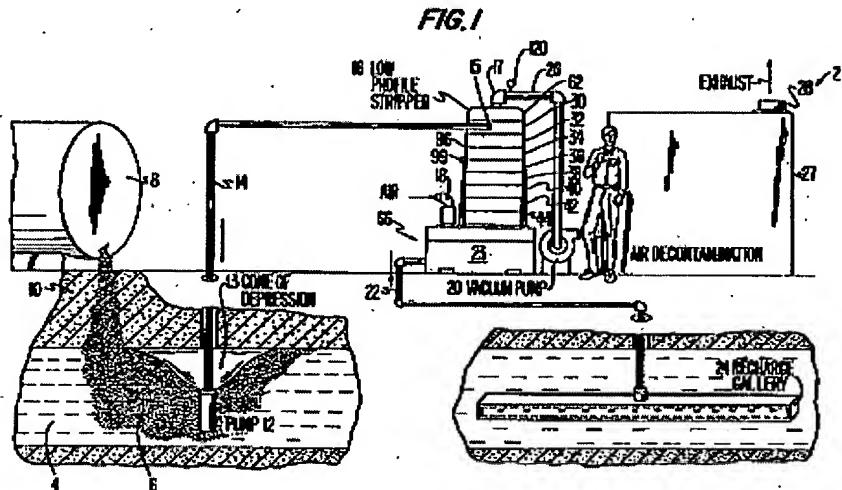
#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Claims 1,3-6,9-12,14 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Rentschler (US 5,352,276)**.



As shown in Fig. 1, Rentschler discloses a water remediation system.

**From column 11 of Rentschler, beginning at line 5:**

The system is particularly useful for decontamination of water contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOC) which may be introduced to Found water through leakage of a storage tank or the like, as illustrated in FIG. 1. A typical example is a gas station from which VOCs have leaked into the groundwater. Chemical species that make up the contamination include gasoline components, e.g., MTBE (methyl tert-butyl ether) and the BTEX compounds (benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylenes) as well as other water insoluble, high vapor pressure compounds.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed **November 2, 2006** have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants have argued, "***Rentschler does not disclose or suggest the use of a dynamic venturi effect for stripping according to Applicant's claimed invention.***" This argument is not commensurate in scope with the claims that remain rejected in view of Rentschler. The stripper of Rentschler is in the process flowline, and hence, "***inline.***" The claims do not specify a "***venturi.***" Pipe 14 passes though an "***orifice***" in the sidewall of stripper 16, and as such, is seen to meet the limitations of the claims. As for Applicants' arguments urging that the tray stripper of Rentschler does not permit "***concurrent flow,***" the claims only require that flow through the orifice be concurrent, and not concurrent through the whole stripper assembly. It is in Rentschler. The exiting of the extract of Rentschler through inlet 15 is seen to constitute "***expanding,***" as the term is used by Applicants.

The functional recitations appearing in apparatus claims 12,14 and 16-20 are not seen to patentably distinguish these claims from Rentschler. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims **21-33** are allowed.

Claim **7** and **8** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to because in Figure 1, the pump and two squares above it need reference numerals. In Fig. 2, it is unclear what the cross-hatched shape in the chamber 36 is intended to represent, and the flows into the air amplifier 34 need to be labeled with reference numerals. Is Fig. 4 a depiction of the "prior art?". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert J. Popovics at telephone number (571) 272-1164.



Robert James Popovics  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1724

